1--.

Claim 8, line 1, change "any preceding claim" to --claim 1--.

Claim 10, line 1, change "any preceding claim" to --claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 1, change "any of the claims 1 - 9" to -- claim 1--.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into this case.

Consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

This preliminary amendment is necessary as it puts the application into proper form and renders clearer the invention being claimed.

Applicant's attorney further states that no new matter has been added to this application by this preliminary amendment.

Since applicant has merely amended the application to provide a better understanding of the invention and to

additionally distinctly claim the invention, consideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully,

James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693

Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252

Marcus R. Mickney, Reg. No. 44,941

1493 Chain Bridge Road

Suite 300

McLean, Virginia 22101

Tel: (703) 442-4800 Fax: (703) 448-7397

November 10, 1999